

My Melbourne brings untold stories to the big screen

By Our Reporter

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Four diverse stories MY MELBOURNE, four about identity and belonging // Photo supplied

Mind Blowing Entertainment has announced the release of *MY MELBOURNE*, a groundbreaking anthology feature film that weaves together four powerful narratives exploring sexuality, gender, race, and disability.

Set and filmed in Melbourne, the film will hit Australian cinemas on March 6, followed by a release in India on March 14—marking the first Australian film to secure distribution in India since 2016.

Producer Mitu Bhowmick Lange AM expressed excitement about the film's historic release, stating: "It's been almost ten years since an Australian film has been released in India, so we are absolutely delighted that *MY MELBOURNE* will be screened in more than 22 cities across the country."

A celebration of inclusion and diversity, *MY MELBOURNE* brings together four of India's most esteemed filmmakers—Kabir Khan, Onir, Rima Das, and Imtiaz Ali—who collaborated with emerging storytellers from underrepresented backgrounds. The result is an authentic, deeply personal film exploring identity and belonging through the lens of migrant experiences.

Each of the four stories is inspired by real-life events, painting a vivid portrait of contemporary multicultural Melbourne. From script development to production, the Indian directors mentored local cast and crew, ensuring the narratives remained true to their origins while delivering cinematic excellence.

The film features an impressive ensemble, including Kat Stewart (*Offspring*), Arka Das (*Lion*), legendary cricketer Brad Hodge, Bollywood star Arushi Sharma, and Nathan Borg, the first deaf actor to appear in *Neighbours*. It also introduces rising talents such as Setara Amiri, an Afghan refugee and budding cricket star, who portrays a role close to her own lived experience.

The soundtrack of *MY MELBOURNE* further amplifies its cultural richness. The title track is performed by Janaki Eshwar, the youngest contestant on *The Voice Australia*, alongside Parvyn Kaur Singh, former frontwoman of cult band *The Bombay Royale*. Additionally, the song *Azadi*, performed in both Hindi and Dari by Aryana Sayeed—one of Afghanistan's most beloved singers and activists, often referred to as 'the Taylor Swift of Afghanistan'—adds a poignant layer to the film.

Lange highlights the film's broader vision, saying: "Our goal with *MY MELBOURNE* is not just to create an entertaining, contemporary, and honest feature film, but also to discover and nurture the next generation of diverse filmmakers. Working with some of the world's most respected directors, our local creatives have had the opportunity to learn from the best while staying true to their cultural and narrative identities."

MY MELBOURNE promises to be a landmark film that reflects the heart and soul of one of the world's most multicultural cities, celebrating stories that need to be told.

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